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THE  
CLAIMS OF SCIENCE  
TO  
PUBLIC RECOGNITION  
AND SUPPORT.

A REPRINT FROM THE JOURNAL OF THE STATISTICAL SOCIETY, WITH A  
RETROSPECT OF THE EFFORTS MADE BY THE SOCIETY TO  
PROVIDE ITSELF AND COGNATE SOCIETIES WITH  
SUITABLE HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.



AND

An Appendix containing sundry Plans and Elevations.

BY

DR. GUY, F.R.S.

*(One of the Honorary Vice-Presidents of the Statistical Society.)*



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1882.

WORKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

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WITH

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## P R E F A C E.

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THIS work reproduces in Part I. what the author addressed to the Statistical Society twelve years ago on the claims of Science, and especially of the "Social Sciences," to public recognition and support ; and in Part II. puts on record the long-continued efforts made by the Statistical Society to help itself, and other Societies having similar objects, to obtain convenient accommodation under one roof.

The author would especially insist on the claims the Societies have on the State for aid in overcoming a difficulty which they have hitherto found insurmountable—the procuring of a site. In presence of the precedents cited in Part I. of this publication, and in view of the acknowledged services rendered to the State by the Statistical Society in the gratuitous preparation and publication of important treatises on subjects in which the public has a strong and direct interest, the author cannot bring himself to believe that the claims of the Society when again submitted to the Government will be met by a refusal.

The plans and elevations given in the Appendix have seemed to the author well worth preserving. They will serve to show how, in the judgment of highly competent persons, the house-accommodation so much desired and needed by the Societies may be carried into effect. The plans and estimates referred to at page 29, and in the Appendix Plan II, are in the possession of the Statistical Society.

12, GORDON STREET,

*July*, 1882.

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# PART I.

ON THE  
CLAIMS OF SCIENCE TO PUBLIC RECOGNITION  
AND SUPPORT;  
WITH  
SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE SO-CALLED  
“SOCIAL SCIENCES.”

BY WILLIAM A. GUY, M.B. CANTAB., F.R.S.,  
*One of the Honorary Vice-Presidents of the Statistical Society.*

[Reprinted from the Journal of the Statistical Society, Vol. XXXIII., Part IV., p. 433, Year 1870.]

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IN treating of the claims of Science, I have two objects in view, the one general, the other special. I wish to show, in the first place, that Science, as distinct from Learning and Art, is eminently deserving of the support and patronage of the public; and, in the second place, that the branches of knowledge now generally known as the “Social Sciences” have special claims of their own. And I desire so to handle my subject in these its two divisions, as to promote an object our President has long had at heart,\* and in which

\* See Mr. Newmarch’s communication to the Society on the occasion of his resigning office as Editor of the *Journal* and acting Honorary Secretary, vol. xxvi., p. 78 (March, 1863); also his inaugural address for the Session 1869–70, published in the December number of the *Journal* for 1869, p. 382.



every member of this Society, and of those which are now co-operating with it, may be presumed to take a lively interest: I mean, the bringing together under one roof, with the great and obvious advantages of fixity of tenure, close proximity, facile and friendly co-operation, and economy of management; with offices convenient for the transaction of business, a spacious theatre, large meeting rooms, and well lighted libraries and museums; of such societies, or groups of societies, as have most in common in their aims and objects.\*

### I.—Of Science.

Though most men speak of science as of a something eminently entitled to consideration and respect, there are few who could give a clear account of the origin of these feelings. Like the words "civilisation" and "progress," "genius" and "taste," this word science is very hard to define or describe. It is not often, indeed, that scientific men themselves stop to inquire what the honourable title they bear really implies. But there are occasions, and this is one of them, when it is well that we should try to realise what we mean; for when men have claims to assert, and, still more, if they have favours to ask, they may expect to find those whom they address both critical and exacting.

I ask you then to bear with me for a little, while I try to clothe in words the idea I have of science. But first let me remind you of the analogous attempt I made five years since, at the first meeting of our Session 1865-66. After treating of the original and acquired meaning of the term "STATISTICS," and on the proper functions of a statistical society, I ventured to discuss the question whether there be a "SCIENCE OF STATISTICS," and, in order that I might answer that question, offered some preliminary suggestions respecting the meaning of the word "SCIENCE." By referring to dictionaries, and to the writings of such men as Sir John Herschell and Professor Sedgwick, I came to the conclusion that the word was one "of very unsettled import," and that it might have every "shade of meaning between *knowledge arranged and methodised*, and *certainly based on demonstration*." From dictionaries and the dicta of philosophers, I turned to the sciences themselves, and found an explanation of the discrepancies I had met with in the obviously dissimilar character of branches of human knowledge to which men by common consent

\* For a list of the Societies which responded to the invitation of the Statistical Society, by sending delegates to the meeting held at the rooms of the Society, 12, St. James's Square, April, 1860, see Part II., p. 29.

affix the name of science. It was evidently no easy task to find out and explain a common element in sciences so various as logic and arithmetic, music and perspective, astronomy and chemistry, physiology and psychology. I failed in the attempt then ; and am not disposed to repeat it now. I must be content with reiterating the statement that science is knowledge, "with certain qualifications and reservations:" knowledge, that is to say, in its most definite, condensed, and exquisite form, dealing with worthy objects, and applied to worthy uses. And now, if we pass from science in general to sciences in particular, and survey them in detail, we shall find them conforming to these universal characteristics. We shall see that every branch of knowledge that is, by common consent, stamped with the word *science*, aims at some useful and worthy object, studies a certain defined order of things, which it identifies by accurate descriptions and exact definitions, by expressive words and phrases ; which it arranges in lucid order, under classes and sub-classes ; on which it brings to bear the most delicate instruments of research and most refined methods of analysis ; to which it applies, as far as practicable, the rules of logic and the figures of arithmetic ; crowning the entire edifice, if it proves equal to the burden, with some comprehensive numerical theory.

This toilsome accumulation and careful assortment of materials, this close inspection and critical examination, this weighing and measuring and testing, this planning and building, and crowning of the edifice, this watchful preservation and timely enlargement of the structure, presupposes the co-operation of many minds, with varied and special endowments ; and this co-operation, sooner or later, takes the form of the scientific society or association, of which I shall presently have something more to say. But I observe, in passing, that whatever claims any science may have to public recognition and support, may fitly be vested in the society which has come to represent its interests and promote its objects.

I ought to say something in this place of the relation of science to art ; and perhaps I cannot do better than liken science to a leaven which, when it is brought in contact with any assemblage of objects or facts, of observations or experiments, soon pervades the whole mass, changing what was an art practised in ignorance, uncertainty, and waste, into a science replete with reasonable rules and principles, the parent of new methods of procedure, simpler, shorter, and more economical. Sometimes it happens that the leaven pervades the whole mass, as when the *art* of construction is changed into the *science* of the architect or engineer. But, in other instances its effect is

partial: the leaven does not pervade the whole mass: the art is only imperfectly transmuted into a science;—as when the art of healing, uncertain and conjectural in many things, attains to exactitude and precision in the diagnosis of some diseases, and in the cure of others. Again, this scientific leaven does not always act in the same way, in the same degree, with the same speed. There are some great branches of natural history in which its working has not gone beyond the first stage of clear description and terse definition, with perhaps a tentative and provisional classification and nomenclature; others in which there are added to these certain delicate instruments of research; others in which it has become possible to express and record many facts and phenomena in the exact and condensed language of symbols and figures: a favoured few have all their facts firmly bound together by one comprehensive numerical theory. Among the claims of science which I shall presently state more precisely, this improvement of the arts out of which it springs, will be found not the least worthy of consideration.

## II.—*Of the Science called "Social."*

It is not a little remarkable that a period of one hundred and seventy years (from 1660, when the Royal Society was founded, to 1834, when this, the Statistical Society, came into existence) should have elapsed without any distinct recognition of the great branch of human knowledge to which we now give the appropriate and expressive name of "Social Science." The "natural knowledge" which the Royal Society was founded to improve did not comprise the study of man himself as the unit of communities and nations, but only as an organised living being. The parish registers first set on foot in 1538, followed two years later by the statute of Henry VIII. enabling ecclesiastical persons and corporations to grant leases for three lives, or twenty-one years, supplied both materials and a motive for instituting inquiries into the value of life; and the London bills of mortality, commenced in 1592, to be resumed in 1603, furnished numerical data to which Captain Graunt and Sir William Petty, writing respectively in 1662 and 1683, so applied the methods of synthesis and analysis, as unconsciously to create a new subject of study not undeserving the name of science. A little later (in 1692) Halley made his attempt to construct a table of mortality from the mortuary registers of Breslau, soon to be followed by the series of valuable tables and treatises to which the names of Davenant, Gregory King, Kerseboom, De Moivre, and Simpson are attached. In 1706 these applications of



the mathematics to the facts afforded by registers of death had assumed so sure a form, as to inspire the commercial world with confidence ; the Amicable Assurance Society was established, and the foundations were unconsciously laid for that important branch of social science which engages the attention of the actuary. The next great step towards the building up of a social science was taken when John Howard set the first example of the study of the condition of an important section of the community by the truly scientific method of laborious inspection and exact record, on a uniform system, of the facts observed. In these prison inspections it is impossible not to recognise the model and exemplar of some of the most useful inquiries in which this Society has engaged ; such, for instance, as the inquiry into the condition of Church Lane, St. Giles's.

But already, nearly a quarter of a century before the date of Howard's prison inspections—in the year 1749—Gottfried Achenwal, Professor of Law and Politics at Göttingen, had recognised under the name STATISTIK, that State science which we cultivate here. It was not, however, till 1833, when Quetelet had given an impulse to numerical studies of man physical and moral, by the publication of the papers which were soon to grow into the “*Essai de Physique Sociale*,” that the British Association for the Advancement of Science added a Statistical Section to the five already existing ; and not till the following year that this Society was set on foot. Its object was to procure, arrange, and publish “facts calculated to illustrate the condition and prospects of society,” “and, as far as it may be found possible, facts which “can be stated numerically, and arranged in tables.” This, then, was the distinct and formal recognition of that science which we now call “social.” That it deserves the name of science I endeavoured to prove in the paper to which I have already referred, as read and published in our *Journal* five years ago. Assuming, then, the existence of a social science, of which many of the materials had been in process of collection for three centuries, but of which the full and complete recognition dates from the foundation of this Society in 1834, I proceed to show that this new science of man has had a history in keeping with that of the “natural knowledge” which the Royal Society was established to improve and promote. The Royal Society was founded in 1660, and had continued its multifarious scientific labours till 1831, when it may be said to have given birth to the British Association for the Advancement of Science. In this nineteenth century, the march of events is quicker ; and accordingly the science which had its first embodiment in the

Statistical Society of 1834, found its British Association in the Social Science Association of 1857—an interval of less than a quarter of a century.

In the Social Science Association, therefore, we acknowledge a second development and modified culture of that branch or division of human knowledge—that science of States—to which we had previously given the name of Statistics. Our two societies have a common aim—the improvement of man's condition physical, intellectual, and moral, through the patient heaping up, intelligent sorting, and critical examination of the elements of a knowledge which, properly applied, is power indeed.

Of this “social science” let me further observe, that it differs from most other sciences chiefly in this, that its units are of variable magnitude, and that its truths and principles, gathered from large assemblages of such units, admit of application only to like collections of facts, not to the individual units themselves. The actuary has the function of first establishing truths of this order, and then applying them; the statist must look to the statesman to carry into effect the practical works of justice and benevolence. And here, while I point out this fortunate conjunction of theory and practice in the labours of the actuary, I am sure that I express the sentiment of every member of this Society, when I say with what satisfaction we view the ties which hold our two societies together, and with what lively pleasure we should hail the day that saw the Statistical Society, the Social Science Association, and the Institute of Actuaries under the same roof, working side by side, in harmonious co-operation, with the one common aim—“*the improvement of man's estate.*” But is it not obvious that this principle of association admits of being carried much farther, so as at length to embrace in one group, under one roof, all the societies or associations that make man himself, as a physical and moral unit, the object of their study?

And now I pass on to a further consideration of science, as represented by the scientific society or association.

### III.—*Of Scientific Societies and Associations.*

If I found it difficult to define the word science, I do not find it easy to identify the scientific society or association; and for the simple reason that no two scientific bodies are found to be exact counterparts of each other. There are some few, for instance, that are exclusively dedicated to the culture of the branch of knowledge after which they are named, while others much more

numerous blend scientific culture with objects not less worthy perhaps though different. Thus there are examining and licensing bodies, such as our colleges of physicians and surgeons, with whom the promotion of science has been only one among several objects; but these powerful and useful institutions, which are almost identified with the great names of Harvey and Hunter, cannot be properly omitted from any list of scientific bodies claiming to be comprehensive and complete. Again, there are associated bodies of which a chief object is to promote science rather as teachers than as students. Such is the Royal Institution, with whose past history the great names of Davy and Faraday are inseparably associated—I am tempted to say as living products of its laboratory. Nor could we rightly exclude from the list of scientific societies such printing clubs as the Sydenham, the Ray, the Wernerian and the Cavendish; or the “Surtees Society,” which charges itself with the publication of MSS. illustrative of the moral, intellectual, religious, and social condition of certain parts of England and Scotland, and so claims a place among the cultivators of social science.

If I am allowed to take this large and comprehensive view of scientific societies and associations, I should begin the history of such institutions in England with the Royal College of Physicians, founded in 1518 by the learned, accomplished, and munificent Linacre, and privileged a century later (in 1616) to hear from the lips of William Harvey, their Lumleian lecturer, the first true description of the circulation of the blood. The next subject that engaged the attention of any associated body, was antiquarian lore. As early as 1572 Archbishop Parker originated the Society of Antiquaries, which held its first meeting at the house of Sir Robert Cotton. But the society alarmed James I., who accordingly dissolved it; and it remained in abeyance till 1707. Meanwhile, in 1660, the Royal Society was founded, and in 1662 received its charter. It may be said to have originated somewhat earlier—in 1645. With the exception of a similar society at Rome, it is believed to be the oldest of its kind in Europe. It was the sole representative of science under the name of “natural knowledge” during what remained of the seventeenth century, and up to the year 1707, when the Society of Antiquaries was resuscitated.

If we would learn how the three associations that satisfied our ancestors in the seventeenth century and early part of the eighteenth, have grown into a multitude in this the nineteenth, we have only to refer to the pages of such a work as Hume’s “Learned Societies and Printing Clubs,” or to some current



printed list. I will pass these societies rapidly in review, without stopping to criticise the claims of each society to the title of scientific.

In what remained of the eighteenth century the Society of Arts (1753), the Physical Society of Guy's Hospital (1772), the Medical Society of London (1773), and the Linnean Society (1788), four in all, took their rise.

The first quarter of the nineteenth century witnessed the formation of the Royal Institution (1800), the Horticultural Society (1804), the Medical and Chirurgical (1805), the Geological (1807), the Institution of Civil Engineers (1818), the Royal Astronomical (1820), the Royal Medico-Botanical (1821), the Royal Society of Literature and the Royal Asiatic (1823): nine societies in all.

During the second quarter of the century, the Zoological Society (1826), the Incorporated Law (1827), the Royal Geographical (1830), the British Association for the Advancement of Science and the United Service Institution (1831), the Provincial Medical Association (1832), the Entomological (1833), the Royal Institute of British Architects, and this, the Statistical Society (1834), the London Electrical (1835), the Botanical and the Numismatic (1836), the Royal Botanic and the Microscopical (1839), the Pharmaceutical and the Chemical (1841), the Philological (1842), the Ethnological, the Archæological Association, and the Archæological Institute, with the Sydenham (1843), the Syro-Egyptian, the Ray, and the Wernerian (1844), the College of Chemistry (1845), the Cavendish (1846), the Palæontological (1847), the Institute of Actuaries (1848); in all twenty-eight societies.

In the twenty years that have elapsed since these societies were instituted, we have seen several others added to the list—the Epidemiological for instance, in 1850, and one of which, as specially connected with my present design, I would make honourable mention; I mean the Social Science Association, set on foot in 1857, and since maintained in active usefulness, through the exertions of Mr. Hastings.

In this imperfect list of scientific societies and associations, some few are included that belong rather to the domain of literature and art than to that of science properly so called; but it is probable that the number excluded through inadvertence is at least equal to that of those wrongfully admitted; and I have little doubt that after the most rigid exclusion of all societies and associations not belonging to the category of science, there would remain at least fifty distinct bodies of educated and intelligent men, with London for their head quarters, committed more or less fully and earnestly to the culture



and support of every branch of knowledge which can claim for itself a distinct name or separate organisation.

I should like to have classified the scientific societies and associations according as their scope is more or less wide, their objects general or special ; to have separated the societies that simply cultivate some branch of knowledge from such as may be said to constitute themselves the representatives and guardians of the interests of some special profession engaged in the active business of life ; to have said something more about our great examining bodies, such as the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, and the University of London ; something of our two metropolitan colleges (University and King's) ; something, too, of the museums and educational bodies directly supported or partially assisted by the State—the British Museum, the Hunterian Museum of the College of Surgeons, the Geological Museum in Jermyn Street, the South Kensington Museum, the Record Office, the museum of the United Service Institution. But I resist the temptation to dwell longer on these topics, and proceed to take special notice of the societies and associations that may be said to devote themselves to the culture of social science.

First among these in order of time is our own Society, founded, as I have already reminded you, in 1834, and now in close alliance with the Institute of Actuaries, which dates from the year 1848. The Social Science Association, set on foot in 1857, in like alliance with the Law Amendment Society, and bearing some such relation to the Statistical as the British Association for the Advancement of Science does to the Royal Society, may be said to constitute a nucleus of four societies, having similar objects and pursuits, round which other organised bodies may be reasonably expected to group themselves. If we enlarge our notions of "social science" so that it may embrace all those societies that have for their object the study of man himself, we may expect to attract to ourselves such bodies of scientific men as the Ethnological and Anthropological Societies ; perhaps the Archæological ; certainly the Epidemiological and other societies that cultivate the wide and fruitful field of hygiene. These cannot fail, I think, to acknowledge a common aim and object, at least to the extent of desiring to live side by side in some common home, or to occupy some distinct section of any building that may hereafter be erected for the accommodation of the many societies which now exist where they are, with inadequate accommodation and only upon sufferance.

I will assume the co-operation of these societies at least to this extent,

and proceed to give you some idea of the number of persons who, as members of these societies, must be interested in obtaining better and more permanent accommodation.

The Statistical Society and Institute of Actuaries, not reckoning 47 duplicate members twice, have a joint constituency of 608.\* The Social Science Association has, in round numbers, 1,500. The Ethnological and Anthropological together, also in round numbers, 750; and if the Epidemiological and one or two smaller societies were added, we should have little short of 3,000 promoters and cultivators of the social sciences who may be expected to co-operate in the wholesome effort to improve their condition in this important particular. But if, as seems likely, any building that it may be found expedient to erect would provide accommodation for more societies than I have named, we may hope to obtain the concurrence and active support of a very large body of scientific men.

If the societies which desire either larger accommodation or a more certain tenure, could be induced to co-operate, the aggregate numbers would be found to exceed 10,000.†

#### IV.—*Of the Claims of Science to Public Recognition and Support.*

Science has found favour, encouragement, and support under every form of Government. Kings have acknowledged that it adds lustre even to thrones, and republics have deemed it quite consistent with their sterner virtue to hold out to it the hand of fellowship. Of this we have had a recent notable example in the pecuniary assistance and means of transport afforded by the United States to two parties of its citizens bent upon voyages to Spain and Sicily to view the total eclipse of the 22nd December. And though our own Government at first declined to convey to their destinations the two observing parties to whom our scientific societies had already voted large sums of money, thus leaving the Government of the United States the honour of supplying our shortcomings, I am happy to say that better and more liberal thoughts prevailed at last. For in justice to our own Government it ought to be stated that this want of sympathy with the scientific societies which, by helping themselves, had earned the right to invoke aid from higher powers, would have

\* An analysis of the lists of the two societies shows that they contain some influential elements, among which I may mention fifteen peers and thirty-one members of parliament.

† The Society of Arts has 3,339, and the United Service Institution 3,850 members.

been quite an exception to the rule in England. It could only have occurred during one of those cold fits of economy to which the nation is subject at the close of some feverish paroxysm of prodigal expenditure ; or it may have been an outbreak of the hypochondriac fancy that they are on the brink of ruin which is apt to seize the richest nations no less than the wealthiest individuals.

It is refreshing to turn from an occurrence which for a time carried disappointment and discouragement into the ranks of scientific men, to the more pleasing duty of setting forth the claims of science, and of showing how cheerfully they have been acknowledged by the nation and Government in the times that are passed.

Science, in the sense of knowledge of the more precise, exact, and exquisite order, sets up her claim to public recognition and support on the ground of benefits conferred on the nation in the shape both of honour and profit. She shares with righteousness the prerogative of exalting a nation ; for the love of truth, which causes men to seek after knowledge, and the patient industry and self-denial which are the first conditions of the search, are among the manly virtues that give strength and solidity to a people. Hence science must be preferred before learning, as being more practical, and coming into more direct contact with the realities of life ; before art, as less apt to be turned to unworthy uses, more sure not to become an agent of effeminacy and luxury.

But it is not to be expected of the mass of mankind that they should value scientific pursuits for the virtues which they foster. To them it will be more to the purpose to address the argument of utility ; and happily this is of overwhelming cogency, as the examples I am about to adduce will abundantly prove. The science with which I am most familiar, and in which I have long taken the liveliest interest, is *hygiène* ; and I have lately had occasion to study closely certain of its achievements with which I had long been tolerably familiar. Now within the short space of about thirty years, four men who more or less consciously addressed themselves to the investigation and prevention of disease by scientific methods, conferred first on this nation, and through it on all mankind, these benefits. Sir George Baker, by a series of logical eliminations and ingenious inferences, which will not suffer by comparison with the celebrated essay on “*Dew*” of Dr. Wells, detected the cause of the Devonshire colic, and threw a flood of light on the colic of Poictou and Jamaica, and on the insidious poison of lead wherever it was found to be in



operation. Captain James Cook, by applying on board ship the truths which science had imperfectly established, so kept the scurvy and its fatal attendants in check, so economised life among his crews, as to earn the Copley medal at the hands of the Royal Society. John Howard, by his prison inspections, marked by all those characters of industry, accuracy, and perfect truthfulness, which distinguish the best labours of the modern statist, revealed to our ancestors the jail fever in all its loathsomeness, as the bane of our civil population, the scourge of our armies and fleets. Edward Jenner, by his truly scientific treatment of facts known in and around the dairies of several of our English counties, gave to us and to the world the boon of vaccination. By what figures of arithmetic shall I attempt to measure the greatness of these four gifts of science, freely bestowed upon us, and upon all men everywhere, in the short space of a single generation? I believe it to be no exaggeration to affirm that the great war of the French revolution was brought to a successful issue as much through the lives thus saved, as by the valour of our soldiers and sailors. Such have been the triumphs, such the precious gifts, of this one science of *hygiène*.

I will take one other science—the science of the chemist. Who is there among us so ignorant as not to know that the whole history of chemistry from first to last is one unbroken series of purely scientific discoveries made for love of truth, without thought or hope of reward, but, sooner or later turning to profit in the hands of our manufacturers? Take as an illustration the metal sodium, discovered by Sir Humphrey Davy in 1807. It was a discovery of pure science, and continued for a time to be a chemical curiosity; but now it is made by the hundredweight, and largely used in the manufacture of aluminium and magnesium, both of great and growing importance in the arts. Or take the purely scientific discovery of Professor Daniell. The deposit on the negative electrode of metallic copper from a solution of one of its salts, as the result of a laboratory experiment, turned out to be the central and radical fact round which gathered the processes of electro-casting, plating, and gilding; and I well recollect my former colleague, once and again referring to this scientific discovery of his, as having conferred some honour on himself but much wealth upon others. Need I remind you of the recent history of the great art of photography, or of the somewhat older history of the electric telegraph, both of them offsprings of pure science; need I speak of the microscope, and of its profitable use by the custom-house authorities; need I insist on the manifold obligations under which science and scientific men



have laid us for all the arts that make this, our civilised existence, to differ from the rude life of the savage? There is not a man in this room who could not pile instance upon instance of pure science ripening into practical utility. Among so many examples, we are embarrassed by the difficulty of selection. The mind becomes perplexed and bewildered in the attempt to grasp the multitudinous facts that illustrate and embellish the great central truth.

But I must not forget that I have something yet to say of the special claims of those branches of knowledge known as the *social sciences*. I have spoken of the electric telegraph as an offspring of pure science. What shall I say of the penny post, with its "moral, social, and economical advantages;" its spreading benefits and constant developments? I claim it without hesitation as an achievement of science. It was by truly scientific inferences from ascertained facts that Sir Rowland Hill, an honoured member of this Society, was led to expect that fivefold increase in the number of letters which formed the chief among the convincing arguments that led the nation to adopt his grand project of reform. It was by similar scientific procedures that a recent considerable economy in the cost of the dietaries of our convicts was commended and brought about. But the members of this Society have not far to seek for an illustration on the grandest scale of the application of pure science to the highest uses. Our respected associates, the Institute of Actuaries, know well what I mean. Their privilege is to moderate the anxieties of the life which science in more than one of its practical applications has virtually lengthened, by scientific calculations of the value of life, and the risks of property.

But there is another and very important view of the services we render to the public, and the consequent claims to State recognition and support of this Society, taken as the exponent of a great social science. The scientific labours of our members, inspired by a mere love of truth, looking to no pecuniary reward, and bearing directly on the very questions which come under discussion in the legislature, are in many cases a direct saving of expense to the nation, sometimes by rendering some costly return unnecessary, sometimes by doing the necessary work of condensation and analysis. An important return is made to Parliament. It abounds in tables and columns of figures. The work of analysis, which must be undertaken if the return is not to become so much waste paper, if Parliament and the public are to profit by the expense incurred—this work of analysis is done by some member of the Society, seized with a wholesome curiosity to know the truth.

He bestows upon it time, and thought, and the skill acquired by practice ; he submits his work to our criticism ; his paper is published in our *Journal*, at our proper cost ; and thus the Government and the public save money and become possessed of wholesome and fruitful truths. The admirable paper by Sir Rowland Hill, read here in May, 1841, and published in the July *Journal* of that year, is a case every way in point ; so is the elaborate and exhaustive series of papers on electoral statistics, for which we were indebted to our President,\* to say nothing of the contributions to mercantile, trade, and banking statistics with which he has enriched our *Journal*. How can I speak in fitting terms of praise of such papers as those with which, a few years since, Mr. Hodge illustrated the mortality arising from naval and military operations ; how of such exhaustive treatises as those of Mr. Lumley on the poor law ; how of the labours of a score or more of fellow workers, past and present, whose names are mentioned with honour wherever science is held in esteem ? Of all their labours I may safely affirm that, while they have benefited the public, they have effected a direct and appreciable saving of money which, but for them, the Government itself must have expended. And this which is true of our own Society may be safely affirmed, in its degree, of the Institute of Actuaries, and of the Social Science Association.

Such, then, are the claims of science, and of the societies which cultivate and represent it, to public recognition and support ; and such the special claims of this Society, and of the other representatives of social science.

I now proceed to treat of the precedents in favour of such recognition and support, to be found in the past and present action of Government.

#### V.—Of Precedents.

This paper, it will be seen, has been throughout suggestive rather than exhaustive. I shall continue to give it this character ; and shall rest content under this head of precedents, with adducing a few instances only of public recognition and support to science.

1. *Royal Society*.—Grant by the Crown of the college and lands in Chelsea, sold in 1682 ; subsequently of apartments in Somerset House ; still later of apartments in Burlington House. Ample accommodation in course of being provided in the new buildings erecting on that site.

2. *Society of Antiquaries*.—Grant by George III. of apartments in Somerset House.

\* Mr. Newmarch.

3. *Geological Society of London*.—Grant by the Crown of apartments in Somerset House.

4. *Royal Astronomical Society*.—Grant by the Crown of apartments in Somerset House.

5. *Royal Asiatic Society*.—An annual donation of 100 guineas from the East India Company.

6. *Royal Geographical Society*.—Two gold medals, presented annually by Her Majesty.

7. *Chemical Society*.—Apartments to be provided in the new building at Burlington House.

The foregoing (with the exception of the last) are extracted from Hume's "Learned Societies and Printing Clubs." The following are taken from the "Civil Service Estimates for 1870-71, No. IV."

1. *South Kensington Museum*.—Vote of 37,659*l*.

2. *School of Mines and the Geological Museum, Fermyn Street*.—Vote, 10,704*l*.

3. *College of Chemistry*.—Vote, 820*l*.

4. *Geological Survey of the United Kingdom*.—Vote for England, 13,127*l*.

5. *British Museum*.—Vote, 91,665*l*, of which 900*l*. is the produce of 30,000*l*. Reduced Three per Cent. Annuities directed to be applied in aid of salaries and other expenses by 26 Geo. II., cap. 22, sec. 48.

6. *National Gallery*.—Vote, 16,181*l*.

7. *National Portrait Gallery*.—Vote, 1,800*l*.

8. *Royal Society*.—Vote, 1,000*l*., and 10,000*l*. to its meteorological committee.

9. *Royal Geographical Society*.—Vote, 500*l*.

10. *University of London*.—Vote, 9,577*l*. A handsome and commodious building recently erected at Burlington House.

Among these Votes, Nos. 3, 8, and 9 are of special interest to us, being grants to societies, as distinct from money voted to institutions and objects under the direct management of the Government. Some of the grants, as 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 10 it will be seen, are for objects not purely and simply scientific.

Other grants of public money to scientific societies, are to be found in estimates other than those for Civil Service, No. IV. Thus the United Service Institution receives a grant of 600*l*. a-year, of which 300*l*. figures as an item in the army, and 300*l*. in the navy, estimates. It has also the use of a building at Whitehall, containing museum, theatre, and offices.



It would be easy to add to this confessedly imperfect list of State aids to scientific institutions having their home in London (for I exclude grants to Scotland and Ireland), such cases as the College of Physicians and their site at Trafalgar Square ; the College of Surgeons, and their Hunterian Museum, purchased by the State ; the Royal Society of Literature, with George IV.'s princely gift of 1,100 guineas a year and a site ; and King's College and its site, granted by the Crown at a nominal rent, in exchange for service rendered to the public in completing the east end of Somerset House and its terrace. The Mechanical Museum of George III., given to the college on condition of its providing a suitable room and safe custody, also deserves a passing notice. Of gifts in money to men who have cultivated science with success, the Parliamentary grant of 30,000*l.* to Edward Jenner, and the scientific annuities to be found on the pension list are examples. But these are of less present interest than the assistance given to scientific societies. I think, too, that I may mention with propriety, as a flattering instance of aid afforded to the science we cultivate, the graceful courtesy of the Government in placing Westminster Hall and its accessories at the service of the Social Science Association, that it might hold the *conversazione* which closed the successful London meeting of 1862. The timely accommodation which King's College was fortunate enough to be able to afford to the Statistical Congress of 1860, as guests of the Government, may also be deemed worthy of mention in this place.

To these precedents of State support, I add two illustrations of the extent to which scientific bodies have helped themselves when called upon to place a building on the sites given to them :—

1. When George IV. made the Royal Society of Literature a present of a piece of land opposite St. Martin's Church, the members voluntarily subscribed 4,300*l.* to build a house upon it.
2. When the King gave the College of Physicians their site in Pall Mall, the members and fellows contributed nearly 14,000*l.* towards the sum of 25,000*l.* expended on the building.

#### VI.—*Claims of the Statistical Society ; a Building Site.*

The precedents just adduced will suffice to show that the Crown and Government of England have given liberal encouragement and support to science for a period extending over nearly two centuries, and that this encou-



agement and support have assumed more than one shape. There have been gifts in money to individuals and to societies, house accommodation, and convenient building sites; and it may be observed, as a rule, that while grants once made have been continued, new obligations have been cheerfully incurred. Of this I am able to adduce a substantial instance in the buildings now in course of erection at Burlington House. Among the six societies for which the Government are providing this handsome accommodation, there are two (the Chemical and Linnean) which had established no claim by previous occupancy of Somerset House. Assuming now, what I believe I am fully justified in doing, that the Statistical Society, during its thirty-six years of scientific activity, has established a strong claim to the patronage and support of Government, and assuming further that that claim would be greatly strengthened by the friendly co-operation of the Social Science Association, of the Institute of Actuaries, and of other societies having analogous objects, I proceed to intimate the form which, in my judgment, our application for assistance ought to take, and also to offer, on my own responsibility, some suggestions of a definite and, as I believe, practical kind.

I think that I fairly represent the views of this Society and of the other societies which have associated themselves with us, when I say that we have never contemplated any other application to Government than that for a site. But we would not have this our moderation misconstrued; for I have often heard the opinion expressed that we have as good a claim to house accommodation as more than one of the societies to whom that boon has been accorded.

In applying to Government for a site, we should have, as I think, very convincing arguments and inducements to offer—arguments arising out of the obvious difficulty in procuring a suitable site by purchase in the open market, and inducements based on a certain benefit to be conferred on the public in return.\* Of the precedents just brought forward, two at least may be used in

\* In making applications to the Government, we might, I think, submit the following considerations :—

1. That there is no way in which we could hope to raise such a sum of money as would purchase a really eligible site.

2. That even if we could purchase such a site, we could not make ourselves secure against the intrusion of some unwelcome and unsuitable neighbour—as, for instance, some noisy place of refreshment or entertainment.

3. That after the purchase of a site open to these objections and inconveniencies, we could not hope to be able to erect a building in all respects such as we could wish.

4. That in the event of the Government acceding to our request, part of the money, which must

illustration of my meaning. For many a long year Somerset House, now one of the stateliest ornaments of the Embankment, which so gracefully connects St. Paul's in the east with the Houses of Parliament in the west, promising to be for London and the Thames, all that the noble line of buildings and ornamental open spaces that stretch along the Seine, in one unbroken line, from the *Barrière de l'Etoile* to the *Hôtel de Ville*, is for Paris,—for many a year the river front and terrace of Somerset House stood unfinished, and might have so remained to this day, but for the interchange of services between the Government and King's College, by which the noble façade was completed, and a site secured. The other case is that of the College of Physicians, which spent 25,000*l.*, on a building worthy of “the noblest site in Europe,” in acknowledgment, as it were, of the liberality which had placed the ground at its disposal.

Encouraged by these precedents, I will set out in search of a site, very naturally attracted to the Embankment, and desirous of contributing something to its adornment, or to that of some thoroughfare leading to it. I know that the Government owns a considerable tract within the space comprised between the Embankment and Whitehall, bounded by Whitehall Place to the north, and the residence of the Duke of Buccleuch to the south. I know of no spot in all London so well suited to be the home of societies and museums as this. It is not traversed by any public thoroughfare, and is accessible both from Whitehall and from the Embankment. With the exception of the private residences in Whitehall Gardens, a small plot marked with the name of Lord Gage, and the larger one that belongs to Lord Carrington, there is, I believe, no building that is not in the possession of the Government, or under its control, and there are also large spaces of ground unoccupied. The whole plot is characterised in an unusual degree by structural shabbiness, disorder, and neglect. The buildings, with hardly an exception, are low, mean, and curiously ugly ; while the one handsome structure, the banqueting hall of the glorious palace of Inigo Jones, put to the most inappropriate of all possible uses, has a stable for its next neighbour. It is necessary for the purpose I have in view that I ask your special attention to this charming specimen of Italian architecture. As we walk from it towards the Houses of Parliament, we encounter first the stables in question, then the not very

otherwise be spent upon an inferior site, might be expended in making the building more worthy of the position it would occupy.

attractive Poor Law Board,\* then a perfectly useless open space, occupied by a few stunted trees ; a space for the retention of which as open ground not the most enthusiastic of sanitary reformers would venture to put in a plea. I earnestly advocate the pulling down of the intrusive stables, and shabby Poor Law Board, and the covering of the open space. No one who studies this part of London, with a view to economy of space and architectural fitness and beauty, can fail to perceive that the banqueting hall is the key of the position ; and that to make any improvement worthy of the name, we must first build a chapel on some adjoining plot of ground. This done, the staircase that now gives access to the hall would have to be taken down, and the north end brought into harmony with the east and west façades. The banqueting hall should be repeated on the open space, and part of the site of the Poor Law Board, and the twin structures connected by a centre containing a handsome recessed entrance. This centre might be of greater or less extent according to the purpose for which the whole building is designed. If we suppose the ends of the building to receive as much light as is consistent with the style of the structure, and the centre to be lighted from above, we should have one of the finest museums in the world, with Rubens' Apotheosis of James I. looking down on something more appropriate than the services of a Christian place of worship ; and if we further suppose the building to be given over to the United Service Institution, with the obligation of maintaining it in a fit state, and with its own collections supplemented by instruments of warfare offensive and defensive—with suits of armour and coats of mail, with swords and spears, arms of precision, mitrailleurs, and heavy ordnance—the new building would be put to a use which the public would be sure to approve and appreciate. Here, in a noble building, facing the Horse Guards, in near proximity to the Admiralty, and with ready access to the Embankment, the people might recreate themselves with a sight of all that man has done, or is doing, to promote the work of destruction. On the site of the temporary United Service Museum, the new Poor Law Board† might be erected. If I am asked for precedents, in making this suggestion, I point to the Hunterian Museum in the College of Surgeons, and George III.'s Museum at King's College.

I suppose the new chapel to be built on the line of the wide footpath

\* Now occupied by the Charity Commissioners.

† Now the Local Government Board, accommodated in the new block of buildings on the west side of Whitehall.



leading from Whitehall to the Embankment, but considerably in the rear of the present chapel ; and opposite to it between the existing United Service Institution and the Embankment Gardens I find the spot of ground which, as I venture to suggest, we might ask the Government to cede to our use.

My friend Mr. Bellamy has been good enough to put my architectural theories upon paper, with the discretion and good taste which I believe him so eminently to possess. I send round a block plan showing the laying out of the ground, and an elevation showing the banqueting hall enlarged. Mr. Bellamy has also prepared a plan for the Learned Societies' Accommodation Committee, which, if it come to occupy the site in question, will not do discredit to the Embankment, or to its architectural neighbours.\*

In the scheme I have ventured to submit, I do not find anything unreasonable or impracticable. But if it does not assist in procuring for us the boon of a suitable site, it may possibly give a little impetus to a work that the Government ought not to shrink from or delay. Mr. Pennethorne's report and plans on "the Thames Embankment and Horse Guards Street," submitted to the Government in 1868, has become a dead letter and waste paper in consequence of a recent vote of the House of Commons ; and the subject will have to be reconsidered. But whatever the fate of the suggestions I have dared to offer, I trust that we shall see our way to make application for a site at or near the spot indicated, that that application, if made, will be favourably entertained, and that we may be allowed to contribute somewhat to the architectural attractions of the Embankment and its approaches.

But happen what may, I am sure that I have said nothing unworthy of my theme, and nothing which ought to prejudice the chances of our obtaining a suitable site whereon to erect a handsome and commodious building. The Government, as I have shown, cannot refuse us without ignoring many a wholesome precedent. We, on our parts (the Fellows of this Society, and of those now co-operating with us) may be counted upon to emulate the examples of the Royal Society of Literature and the Royal College of Physicians. A building fund will not be wanting, if only a proper site can be procured.

In conclusion, I ask that if my communication lacks something of the stern severity of statistics, it may be borne in mind that this is the first meeting of the Session, when it is usually permitted to the reader of a paper to be somewhat discursive.

\* See appendix, Plans I and II.



## PART II.

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### RETROSPECT OF THE EFFORTS MADE BY THE STATISTICAL SOCIETY TO PROVIDE ITSELF AND COGNATE SOCIETIES WITH SUITABLE HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

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THE Statistical Society has recently sustained a severe loss by the death, when barely on the borders of old age, of William Newmarch, one of its oldest, ablest, and most attached members, who had filled in succession the offices of Honorary Secretary and Editor of the *Journal*, and of President; and at the time of his death was on the list of its Honorary Vice-Presidents.

His contributions to the *Journal of the Statistical Society*, which began in 1855 with a paper "On the Loans raised by Mr. Pitt during the first French War, 1793-1801," ended in June, 1878, with a history of "The Progress of the Foreign Trade of the United Kingdom since 1856," the interval being filled in by a series of valuable communications relating to Electoral Statistics, the Progress of Trade in the United Kingdom, Statistical Methods as applied to Economic Subjects, and various topics of special interest to the political economist and statist.

These contributions to the *Journal*, together with his opening Address to the Section of Economic Science and Statistics of the British Association, 1861, on the Progress of Economic Science during the last Thirty Years; his Address as President of the Economy and Trade Department of the Social Science Association, 1871 (both of which addresses were published in the pages of the *Journal*); and his Inaugural Address as President of the Statistical Society "On the Progress and Present Condition of Statistical Inquiry," 16th November, 1869,—these contributions, all of the highest interest to a commercial nation, and important aids to statesmanship, we owe to the indefatigable industry and rare ability of this one member of our Society. And I do not hesitate to affirm that if these were the only aids to statesmanship to be found in the pages of our *Journal*, they would of them-

selves establish for our Society a claim to the favourable consideration of the State, if we are constrained to make application to it for a site on which to erect a suitable building for the accommodation of our own Society and of those cultivators of the social sciences which are most nearly allied to us in their aims and objects.

But it is not to Mr. Newmarch's literary services to the Statistical Society and the State that I here wish to call the attention of the public and the Government. My object is to remind all whom it may concern of the early and active interest which he took in the very serious question of providing the Statistical Society, and those cognate societies which share its necessities, with a home in which to pursue their researches with economy of money and time.

It was at the Twenty-sixth Anniversary Meeting of the Society, held the 15th March, 1860, at its rooms, 12 St. James's Square, during the Presidency of Lord John Russell, that Mr. Newmarch, then one of the Honorary Secretaries, first gave expression to his views on this subject. "He hoped that, at no distant time, either by the aid of Government or by some other means, an arrangement would be made to relieve this Society, and other similar Societies, from the present dead weight expenditure in the shape of rent and other contingencies of that sort. If some such arrangement could be carried into effect as had been spoken of, and some central building found, provided by Government, or by some arrangements amongst the Societies themselves, a great saving would be effected."

Two years later, at the next Anniversary Meeting, held under the Presidency of Sir John Pakington, March 15, 1862, the Report of the Council, drafted by Mr. Newmarch, contained the following passage:—"It may perhaps happen that the proceedings of" certain national and international associations "may indicate some practicable method by which the resources of the six or seven distinct bodies at present engaged in the cultivation of different sections of the large field of Social Science—as, for example, Amendment of the Law, Sanitary Science, Actuarial Science, Statistics, Juridical Science, and Political Economy,—may be concentrated in the most effective and least expensive form, for the advancement, not only of the particular pursuit of each, but also of the other collateral pursuits which form essential parts of the general subject."

At a Meeting of Council held December 11 of this same year 1862, Colonel Sykes in the chair, Mr. Newmarch resigned his offices of acting

Honorary Secretary and Editor of the *Journal* which he had held for six years, in consequence of his acceptance of office in one of the largest Banking Houses in the City of London. In the letter in which he tendered his resignation, Mr. Newmarch again adverted, and at greater length, to the object which he had so much at heart. He thought that the time had come for the six or seven societies already alluded to to form a federation; not such an one as to be subversive of individual independence, but nevertheless such as to attain three important objects—concentrated libraries and places of meeting, economy in management and expenses, and moral and intellectual power arising from the combination of several parts into one consistent whole. Mr. Newmarch then laid down four principles which he deemed indispensable for the governance of such a union of societies:—

(1) That each existing society shall remain in possession of its own property, shall continue to be governed by its own internal rules, and shall continue to choose its own managers and officers; (2) that similar independence shall be preserved as regards the control of the publication of its own papers and proceedings; (3) that each meeting of each of the federated societies shall be open to the members of each of the other federated societies, so as to concentrate upon each department the force of the entire body; and (4) that the authority to be exercised by the officers and council of the federation itself, should be limited to the purposes and objects rather of advising than of actively interfering with the associated societies.”

The Council, after thanking Mr. Newmarch for his valuable suggestions, passed the following resolution, by which it will be seen that the Society, as a body, committed itself to the furtherance of his views:—

“That a Sub-Committee be now appointed to consider the suggested union of the learned societies cultivating social science, to confer in a preliminary sense with the officers or leading members of the societies indicated, and to report to a future Council.

“And that the Committee consist of Colonel Sykes, Dr. Farr, Mr. Newmarch, and the Honorary Secretaries”—namely, Dr. Guy, Mr. Lumley, and Mr. Purdy, who was elected at the Anniversary as successor to Mr. Newmarch.

At this distance of time I am unable to charge my memory with the causes which led to the inaction of this Committee. One of the most probable was the absorption of Mr. Newmarch himself in his new duties, and his retention in the City during the usual hours of business. But let the cause have been what it may, it was not till the Anniversary Meeting held in June, 1869,



that the important subject of house accommodation was again noticed. The Council, in their Report read at that meeting, gave expression to their very natural disappointment that the Statistical Society had not been comprised in the list of societies for which accommodation was to be provided in Burlington House. But though unable to offer any assurance of Government assistance, the Council would not neglect the subject, or abandon the hope that the time might come "when either alone, or in conjunction with some other associations of a kindred character, they may find favour with the Government and with Parliament for this object."

Once again the subject of house accommodation is noticed by Mr. Newmarch, in his Inaugural Address as President, delivered November 16, 1869. He was unable to announce any real progress towards the provision of a suitable building on a suitable site. Burlington House and the Jermyn Street Museum were the homes of the Physical Sciences; South Kensington was the central authority in Art and Design; the British Museum represented Literature; and the Record Office and its adjuncts Antiquarian Research: but the Social and Mixed Mathematical Sciences had had no central home provided for them. The seven societies which he had formerly specified had grown to fifteen,\* and yet no provision of suitable site or buildings. Mr. Newmarch, strongly deprecating, then as always, any State patronage or subsidy, was sanguine enough to think that the associated societies might provide both site and building for themselves; but he lived long enough to learn that this work of association was not so easy as it seemed to be, and that the great preliminary task of securing a suitable site was one hardly to be contemplated without the aid of the State. Mr. Newmarch did not see, as I have always done, that the State ought not to be deprived of the honour of associating itself in this good work, to the extent at least of providing a site.

At the Anniversary Meeting of the Society held June 23, 1860, the Council, referring to their last Report, in which the provision by the Government for the accommodation of the Statistical and other learned societies was treated as a "remote possibility" (a view of the case in which they had been but too well justified by the event), assured the Fellows that the subject should not be neglected, and proceeded to report the steps which had been taken to redeem their promise.

\* Namely, the Statistical, Actuaries, Surveyors, Juridical, Medical Officers, Epidemiological, Mathematical, Meteorological, Social Science Association, Chambers of Commerce, Philological, Schoolmasters, Colonial, Emigration, Reformatory and Refuge Union.



In the previous April sitting the Council had requested the Honorary Secretaries to issue a circular, inviting the several societies which were believed to be willing to co-operate in a project for erecting a suitable building to appoint delegates to a meeting to provide information and promote discussion on the subject. A circular was accordingly issued by the then Honorary Secretaries, Lumley, Hodge, and Purdy, in which the three questions—Whether the Society was chartered, what was the number of its members, and what its annual expense for house accommodation (including rates, taxes, &c.)? were distinctly specified.

This circular, issued on the 6th April, was followed by a meeting held at the Society's rooms, St. James's Square, Mr. Newmarch in the chair; when resolutions were passed and embodied in a second circular, bearing the date of the meeting.

Seventeen societies were represented at this meeting,\* of which fourteen (the Statistical included) signified their readiness to co-operate, and to nominate delegates to the joint Committee. On this occasion I had the honour to be appointed representative of the Statistical Society; and in the belief that this appointment by the Society which had all along taken the lead in this important movement, imposed upon me unusual obligations to exert myself in the cause, I submitted to the Society on the 15th November, 1870, the paper of which the reprint forms the text of this work.

At the next Anniversary Meeting of the Society, held June 22, 1871, the Council reported that the delegates had held several meetings; that they had approximately determined the extent of accommodation they would require, and had caused a plan and estimates in accordance with them to be prepared by Mr. Thomas Bellamy, Architect. The elevation of this building is shown in the Appendix (Plan II.).

The Council also announced the important step taken by the delegates in addressing the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Right Hon. Robert Lowe, now Lord Sherbrooke. In this address, which is given at length in the Appendix (No. V.), the delegates requested the favour of an interview, which was courteously conceded. Mr. Lowe expressed his readiness to forward the object of the Committee, and referred them to Mr. Gore, the Chief Commis-

\* Namely, the Anthropological, Archaeological Association and Institute, East India Association, Entomological Society, Ethnological, Institute of Actuaries, Iron and Steel Institute, Juridical, Mathematical and Photographical Societies, Royal Colonial Institute, Social Science Association, Statistical Society, Victoria Institute, and Zoological Society.

sioner of Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues. The Council added that the Committee were then corresponding with Mr. Gore as regards a site for the proposed building.

Mr. Newmarch, the President, in moving the adoption of the Report, recognised this memorial of the Committee as the most important step that had been taken towards the realization of the object in view, and alluded to the confident expectation of the Committee that if a suitable site could be found, the societies would be able to raise among their members a fund, say of 20,000*l.*, to carry into effect the plans submitted by their architect.

The view taken by the Committee, as the result of their discussions, was "that the societies, looking at the wealth and character of the persons who belong to them, might very well undertake to raise the cost of their own building, and ask the Government only to assist them towards procuring a site." That, he said, was the course that had been decided upon.

In seconding the motion for the adoption of the Report, I had occasion to state that, as the movement for the establishment of a home for the societies had originated with the Statistical Society, the delegates, in addition to myself as its representative, should select from our body some gentleman for their President, who (that the Statistical Society might not be unduly represented) should preside at our meetings, but without a vote.

On the 21st December, 1871, Dr. Farr, President in succession to Mr. Newmarch, in his inaugural address, thus summarised the proceedings of the Committee since the meeting of Council: "My distinguished and zealous predecessors, Mr. Newmarch and Dr. Guy, at the instance of the Council, have met the delegates of other societies, who heartily co-operate with them, and have been in communication with Her Majesty's Government on the question of a site. We may hope the claims they have urged will be met in a frank and friendly spirit by the eminent ministers—themselves men of science—in whose hands the decision rests. Science as well as Religion requires its Temple. And if the ground be once acquired, and the corner stone laid, I feel confident that you and your thousand colleagues in the confederate Societies will erect the superstructure."

But, in spite of the favourable reception accorded to the delegates by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, their hopes were doomed to disappointment; for it is stated in a foot-note to the memorial that though Mr. Gore, when waited upon by Mr. Purdy and myself, expressed himself very favourable to the object the societies had in view, the Government had not been able to

decide upon any plan for the occupation of the site indicated in the plan attached to my paper. An attempt to communicate with the then First Commissioner of Works and Public Buildings having failed, the scheme for obtaining a site from the Government had to be abandoned.

Nevertheless, as we learn from the Report of the Council to the Anniversary Meeting held June 20, 1872, the question of House Accommodation for a certain number of the Learned Societies of London continued to engage the Council's attention.

On the 15th of August of that year (1872) the subject of House Accommodation for the Learned Societies was brought under the notice of the House of Commons by Sir John Lubbock, on going into Committee of Supply. The following is an extract from his speech:—

“He had mentioned that some of the societies were provided by Government with house-room, but there were a considerable number which were not so fortunate. Nine of these had constituted a committee, with a view to the erection, if possible, of a suitable building. These were all societies of importance and standing. He need only mention the first on the list, the Statistical Society, whose *Journal* was, no doubt, well known to honourable members, and the value of which would be generally admitted. They applied some time ago to the Government, offering to erect a building at their own expense, if Government would grant them a site on reasonable terms. His right honourable friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer received them with courtesy, and expressed his desire to meet their views if possible; but, as they had heard nothing more on the subject, they were anxious to learn whether he had been able to arrange anything in the matter.”

Mr. Baxter, in reply, said that the suggestion as to the propriety of giving house accommodation to the learned societies had taken him quite by surprise, for he had not heard of the matter before. A deputation, he believed, had waited upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but he could hold out no hope that the Government would entertain their request.

Disappointed but not discouraged by the failure of previous attempts, Mr. Newmarch, early in the year 1873, with his usual energy and self-reliance, issued a Prospectus of “The Scientific Societies’ House Company, Limited,” with a capital of 40,000*l.*, in 4,000 shares of 10*l.* each. No longer looking to the Government for aid in procuring a site, the scheme contemplated the purchase of a freehold plot, forming the central part of the site of the Aquarium, on which to build a home for the convenient accommodation of the societies



interested. Mr. Newmarch, being closely occupied in the City during the business hours of the day, the position of chairman, with the labour and responsibility attaching to it, devolved upon me; and though I look back to the ultimate failure of the scheme with regret, I feel that I cannot charge myself with want of zeal in the cause, or with initiating any movements on its behalf to which I can attach blame, as being wanting in prudence or due consideration.

This attempt shared the ill success of previous efforts. The societies interested entered heartily into the scheme, a syndicate formed for the purpose raised the needful guarantee fund for the purchase of the freehold, large promises of support were held out, especially by one society consisting of men of wealth; but, alas! little by little the first fervour of support died away; leaders of the movement were absent from critical meetings called in our support; and one by one the societies found reasons for withdrawal. Some discovered objections to the site, others did not find the accommodation all that they required or imagined they should want, and some, again, unable to understand the plans of an architect, were only to be propitiated by the sight of a building. Suffice it to say that this effort, too, failed, leaving behind it the solitary lesson that the societies interested in the scheme might be expected to contribute 20,000*l.*, or half the sum asked for, to a joint-stock company, should any new effort take this form.

At the Anniversary Meeting held June 30, 1873, the Council had the mortification to report that the scheme which, early in the year, had appeared so promising, had since, from a variety of causes, been postponed.

The subject of house accommodation was again adverted to in my first inaugural address as President of the Society on the 18th November, 1873; when I alluded to the very serious obstacle placed in our path by the departure of the Government from the old policy of helping those societies that, in times past, had either done honour to the nation, or assumed some function which must otherwise have been discharged by the State itself. After noting the substantial nature of the help given to other societies, I claimed for our own and other cognate societies a right to expect similar assistance from the State. I also adverted to the strange and inexplicable opposition we had met with in our attempts to help ourselves in the pages of a journal (the *Athenæum*) claiming to represent the views and interests of those societies which, having already profited by State aid first at Somerset House and then in the new buildings in Piccadilly, might be supposed to entertain a friendly



feeling toward those societies that had not yet received any help or favour at the hands of the Government. This unsympathetic and even hostile attitude to the attempt to help ourselves, as put forward by Mr. Newmarch, doubtless contributed to its failure. It is but justice to his memory to state that certain expenses which the attempt had entailed were cheerfully and liberally defrayed by him.

The question of house accommodation assumed a more urgent character during the year 1874, in consequence of the notice of the termination of their tenure of the rooms in St. James's Square from their landlords of the London Library. The Council, in giving this information to the meeting held on the 30th June, 1874, spoke of the extreme difficulty they had found in procuring suitable accommodation in an eligible locality on moderate terms, and stated that the attention of the executive committee was being earnestly directed to the matter.

This subject of house accommodation was naturally referred to at greater length in the inaugural address which I was called upon, as President, to deliver at the first meeting of the Session 1874-75, when we came to occupy for the first time our present quarters at King's College. The occasion seemed appropriate to a retrospect of our previous tenancies, and of the unsuccessful attempts we had made to obtain suitable accommodation. I began this retrospect by citing a resolution passed at the anniversary meeting held in the year 1839, twenty-one years previous to Mr. Newmarch's first allusion to the subject, and five years after the date of the foundation of our Society. That resolution was to the effect, "That it is desirable to change the apartments of the Society," and yet three years later the Council, in their eighth annual report, bewail "the difficulty of finding suitable accommodation in a convenient situation," in consequence of the rent required having been "so far beyond the means of the Society as to put a stop to every negotiation;" adding, however, that an opening had lately presented itself of soon procuring "excellent accommodation at a moderate rent under the Crown." In this expectation the Council were disappointed.

After tracing the migrations of the Society from their first settlement in St. Martin's Lane, as tenants of the Royal Society of Literature, to Regent Street, and thence, after a short sojourn, to St. James's Square (where we formed our alliance with the Institute of Actuaries), and rested twenty-eight years, I stated that we ceased to be tenants of the London Library, and were again thrown upon the wide world of London in search of a new home. I

have a vivid recollection of the immense difficulties we encountered in this search, till to our great relief we succeeded, with the consent of the Council of King's College, in making those arrangements with Canon Barry, its Principal, in virtue of which we have remained in undisturbed possession of our present quarters for nine years. By the courtesy of the Council of King's College, our uncertain tenure has been somewhat improved, and we have been permitted, at our own expense, to effect an important improvement in our place of meeting.

Still our tenure is uncertain, and may perhaps prove of short duration ; and, ere long, we may again be made to experience the almost insuperable difficulty, which we have more than once encountered, of procuring suitable house accommodation without the assistance of Government in securing a site.

The subject of house accommodation is again briefly noticed by Mr. James Heywood, in his presidential address on the 16th November, 1875.

At the Anniversary Meeting held June 27, 1876, attention was again drawn to the uncertainty of our tenure, our liability to receive notice of removal at any moment, and the necessity of taking timely measures to secure a permanent abode for our own and other societies. The speaker, Mr. J. B. Brown, then suggested the formation of a committee consisting of the Presidents and other officials of the societies interested in the scheme, who should consider the matter carefully, secure a site, and mature a plan for early adoption. The President, Mr. Heywood, while he thought there was no immediate danger, recognised the extreme difficulty of finding a suitable site, thought our exclusion from Burlington House unaccountable, and hoped for better times.

In commenting on this matter I alluded to my past experience, and earnestly discouraged any attempt to accomplish our object by the joint action of the several societies. This method had failed before, and would fail again. The most likely method was to rely on the liberality of one of those wealthy persons who abound in England.

Mr. Brown's suggestion, treated as a resolution to appoint a committee of members of our own Council, was then passed unanimously, and acted upon. I shall presently refer to the labours of this committee.

Again the topic of house accommodation was seriously discussed at the Anniversary Meeting held June 30, 1879, when our then President, Mr. Shaw Lefevre, occupied the chair.

In the speech in which Mr. Lefevre moved the adoption of the Council's Report, he spoke as follows:—"One subject which he thought would be especially

forced upon their attention at no distant time was the question of their habitation." After speaking of their present rooms as "in many respects extremely convenient," but not large enough, and of the extreme desirability of enlarged accommodation, "he thought there was a prospect of the question being soon re-opened." After alluding to our earlier attempt and its failure, the President said that "there was a prospect of the question being again raised," for "Mr. Siemens had offered a considerable sum of money" (10,000*l.*) "to the Iron and Steel Institute, for the purpose of building a house which several societies might occupy if they could come to some understanding on the subject. If the proposal were carried out, some eight or ten societies like their own would join in occupying the same building," of which joint arrangement he set forth the advantages.

Mr. Newmarch, in seconding the motion, once more insisted on the necessity of improved house accommodation in some convenient spot near the Houses of Parliament or Charing Cross. At present the societies connected with the advancement of social science and kindred subjects were scattered up and down London, to their great inconvenience and cost. Concentration in one spot would economise both time and money. Mr. Newmarch then spoke of the great cost which the Statistical Society, if acting alone, must incur, and of the comparative economy which would accrue from the union of several societies. He also spoke of the liberal offer of Mr. Siemens to the Iron and Steel Institute, and of other schemes pointing to an increased desire of consolidation.

In moving a vote of thanks to the retiring President, Council, and officers of the Society, I enlarged upon the same topic, spoke of our good fortune in securing our present quarters in spite of the uncertainty of our tenure, of the difficulties which stood in the way of obtaining better quarters, of the obstacles in the path of co-operation, and of our painful experience of the utter failure of our former attempt in this direction. I also alluded to a scheme which had been set on foot for occupying a site on a level with the Adelphi Terrace, but which also had ended in failure. I again asserted the claims which I thought we had on the Government, and repeated a statement I had made before concerning the fate of an application which King's College had made for the ground so long lying waste on which the Inland Revenue Department now stands; and I ventured to hint that if we were now to apply to Government for a site on the space near the Royal Chapel, Whitehall, which had already been allowed to lie waste and profitless for years, we might



either succeed ourselves or rouse the Government to action. I brought my speech to a close by expressing myself as far from sanguine of our success with Government ; but as desirous of giving the Government one more opportunity of showing their appreciation of science, and doing their duty by us.

The proceedings of our Society at the Anniversary Meeting held June 30, 1880, under the presidency of Mr. (now Sir Thomas) Brassey, were of some importance. I may be said to have made myself the spokesman to proclaim the failure of our last attempts to find suitable house accommodation. The committee appointed in pursuance of the resolution of June 27, 1876, consisting of some of the officials of the Society and leading members of the Council, with the President of the Institute of Actuaries, had diligently done their duty by inquiry and frequent advertisement, had examined several sites offered to them, and most reluctantly rejected as unsuitable one which (in a sort of despair) Mr. Newmarch had urged them to accept ; and had thus been reduced to the necessity of remaining content with their existing accommodation, which, thanks to the Council of King's College, we were permitted to improve, as well as to enjoy a somewhat longer tenure at the close of our present occupancy. In moving a vote of thanks to the President, I not only tendered thanks for past services, but, alluding to the proverbial definition of gratitude, I asked for his favourable consideration of our claims when the proper time should come, alluding to the fact that both he and Mr. Shaw-Lefevre, as connected with the present Ministry, might aid us in the matter of a site. Speaking of the work of the committee, I said that we had gone right and left, east and west, and had found it almost impossible to provide ourselves with a decent house. I added that I had ventured on a former occasion to point out (in a paper which I should republish) that our Kings and Princes in times past had done honour to themselves in doing honour to science, and that there were precedents in favour of State aid which it must be hard to ignore. I finished by appealing to the Chair to help us as far as it was consistent with his official duty.

The President, after bearing testimony to the services rendered by our Society to the State in its several departments, assured me of his willingness to promote our views, and concluded his speech in these words :—

“I cannot believe that the Government of the country, whatever its complexion may be, will go on year by year ignoring the existence of the Society ; and certainly the precedent which has been set by receiving a number



of other societies—which I may undertake to say do not do a more useful work than the Statistical Society—is one that we may claim to make use of on our side when the opportunity arrives.”

How can I better bring to a conclusion this necessarily lengthy, and perhaps tedious retrospect than by citing these encouraging words of one who, both inside and outside the walls of the Statistical Society, has by wise words and bold deeds created for himself a right to be listened to with respect ?\*

\* This historical sketch would be incomplete if I did not add that when, at the Anniversary Meeting held June 28, 1881, I was called to occupy the chair in the absence of the President, Mr. Caird (elected to fill that office in the place of Sir Thomas Brassey, appointed to office under the Crown), it was my duty to announce the dissolution of the House Accommodation Committee, *re infecta*, coupled with the courtesy and liberality of the Council of King's College in permitting us to improve the room in which we hold our meetings, and in extending our short final tenure from three to six months. In perusing the speech in which I moved the adoption of the Report, I find that I once again referred to the good that had resulted from the application of the Council of King's College for the waste ground adjoining Somerset House as a site for an Hospital. The then Government found all at once that they had a use for it. It is now the site of the Inland Revenue Office. Should the Statistical Society again have occasion to apply to Government for a site, I hardly know whether I should be better pleased with an answer in the affirmative or in the negative. If the Government accede to our request, the Statistical Society will gain the object for which we have struggled for so many years ; if the Government refuse, let us hope that the reason assigned will be the duty tardily recognised of turning to some profitable account the space allowed for so many years to remain unproductive. A past President of our Society, Mr. Shaw Lefevre, has the initiative. Will the Treasury, with Mr. Leonard Courtney to teach it the saving which the Statistical Society effects on behalf of the State, prove obdurate ? *Nous verrons.*



APPENDIX.

## PLAN I.

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### PLAN REFERRED TO AT THE END OF PART I.

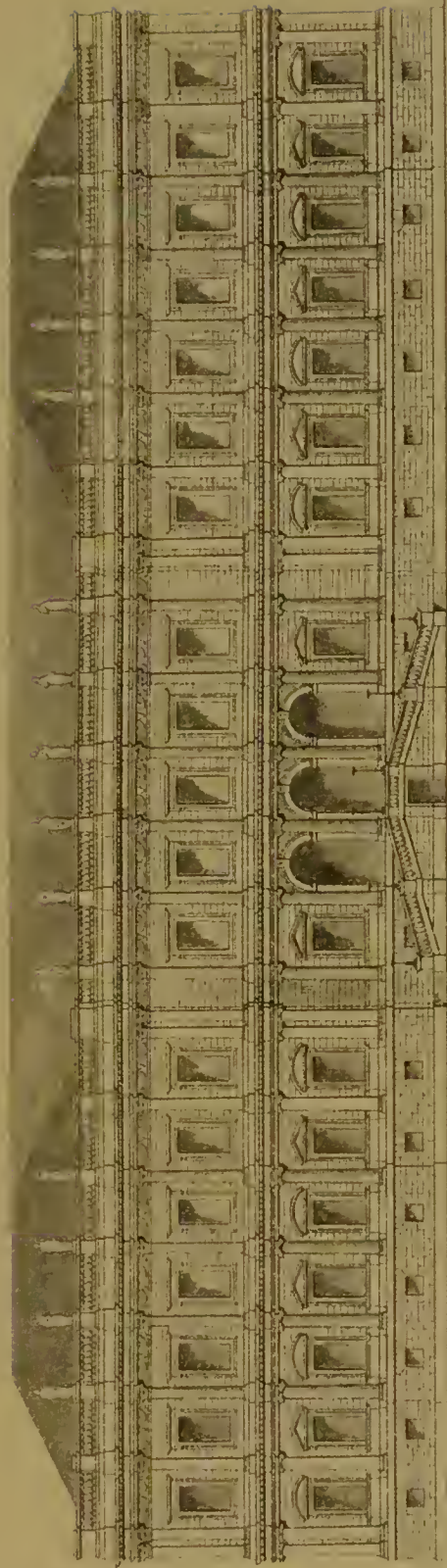
*Elevation.*—This shows the Banqueting Hall (now the Chapel Royal, Whitehall), enlarged by the addition of a recessed centre, with lateral flights of steps meeting at a central entrance, and a new wing in all respects the counterpart of the existing building. If occupied as a museum, the centre, lighted from above, would be well adapted to the display of delicate models and machinery, and the wings to larger and coarser objects, or the building might be devoted to the service of some great department of the State.

*Plan.*—The central line of the Horse Guards (A) is supposed to be continued through a broad footway, having the proposed Museum on its right, then a new building (say the Statistical Department of the Board of Trade), then the proposed new Chapel Royal, then additions to the private residences in Whitehall Gardens. On the left of the footway, are figured in order, Lord Carrington's house and offices, the United Service Museum, and the site suggested for the "Scientific Societies' House."

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N.B. The suggestion which I made in 1870 for devoting the Banqueting Hall to some more suitable purpose than an unconsecrated chapel received support from a plan published by the "Builder," August 25, 1877. It shows a different treatment of the subject, and utilises with much skill the space so long vacant between Whitehall and the Embankment. The "Builder's" plan is attached to a very exhaustive and interesting history of the enormous sums of money squandered on plans never carried into effect and purchases of ground most unwisely delayed by successive Governments, which, ignoring precedents and professing economy, have deemed it consistent with self-respect and their duty to the public to refuse the Scientific Societies the moderate boon of a site.





ELEVATION.

ST MICHAEL'S LANE W.C.

ELEVATION.

Showing the Banqueting Hall,  
repeated with a connecting  
Central Block.

PLAN

Showing the suggested site of  
the Scientific Societies House  
and adjacent buildings.



SCALE OF FEET  
0 50 100 200 300

GROUND PLAN.

*Thomas's Academy Street*

A.D. 1840 and B.D. 1841  
and 1842

C. 1840 and D. 1841  
1842 and 1843





## PLAN II.

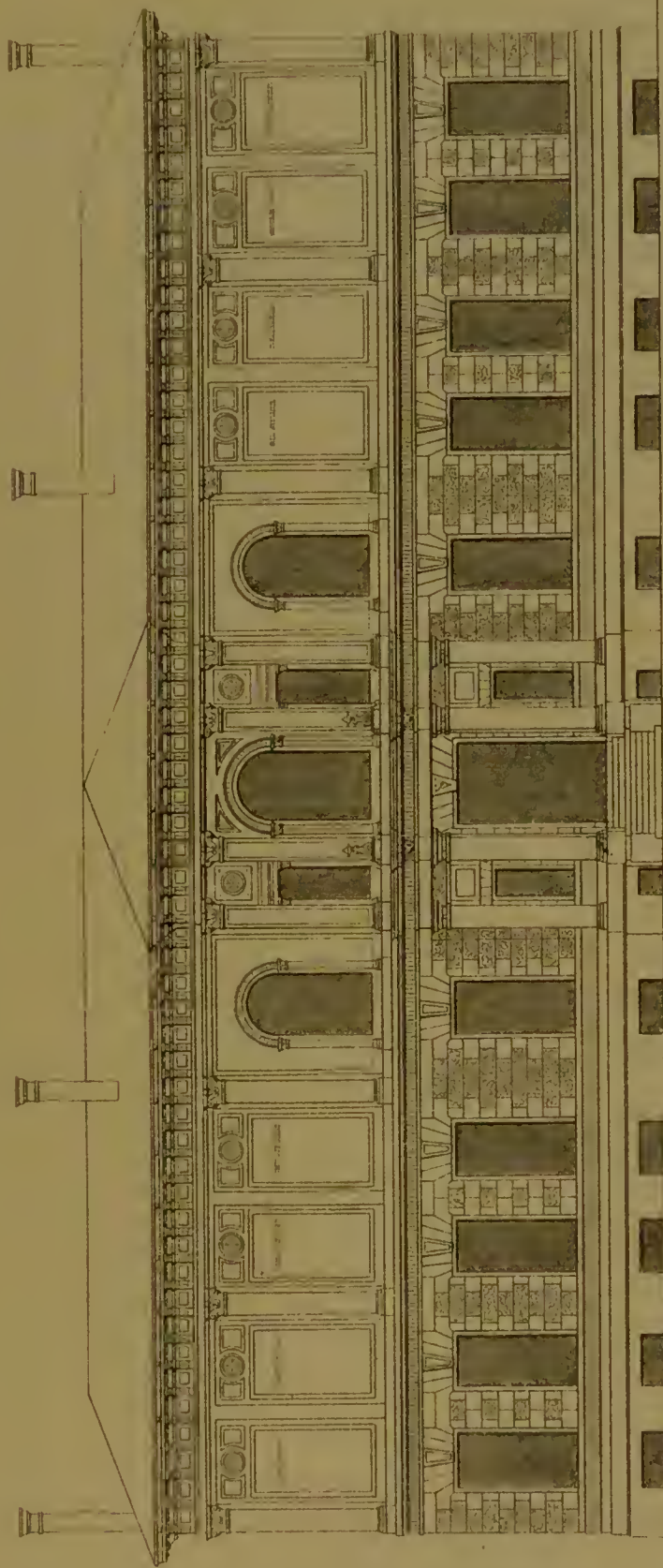
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PLAN REFERRED TO AT PAGE 29 OF PART II.

The following, from the *Journal of the Statistical Society*, Vol. XXXIV., year 1871, p. 246, is a brief description of this plan:—"The building is arranged for twelve societies, four at least of which are to have rooms large enough for all their ordinary meetings. There is also a spacious theatre for the common use of all the societies, with arrangements for the refreshment of the officers, &c. The whole upper floor is lighted from above, and there is a lofty and light basement. The upper floor affords a maximum of wall space for books, &c., supplemented by a gallery to the theatre. The arrangements are admirably adapted to the holding of meetings and soirées.

"The intention of the plan is to show the space that can be allotted to twelve societies, or more, at a cost of, say £16,000, exclusive of the site. Such a plan is a necessary preliminary step, even if the site obtained should require a modified arrangement of the theatre and rooms and a general recasting of the building."





SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES' HOUSE.

ELEVATION OF PRINCIPAL FRONT.

DESIGNED BY J. H. B. & J. H. B. 1874





### PLAN III.

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#### PLAN REFERRED TO AT PAGE 31 OF PART II.

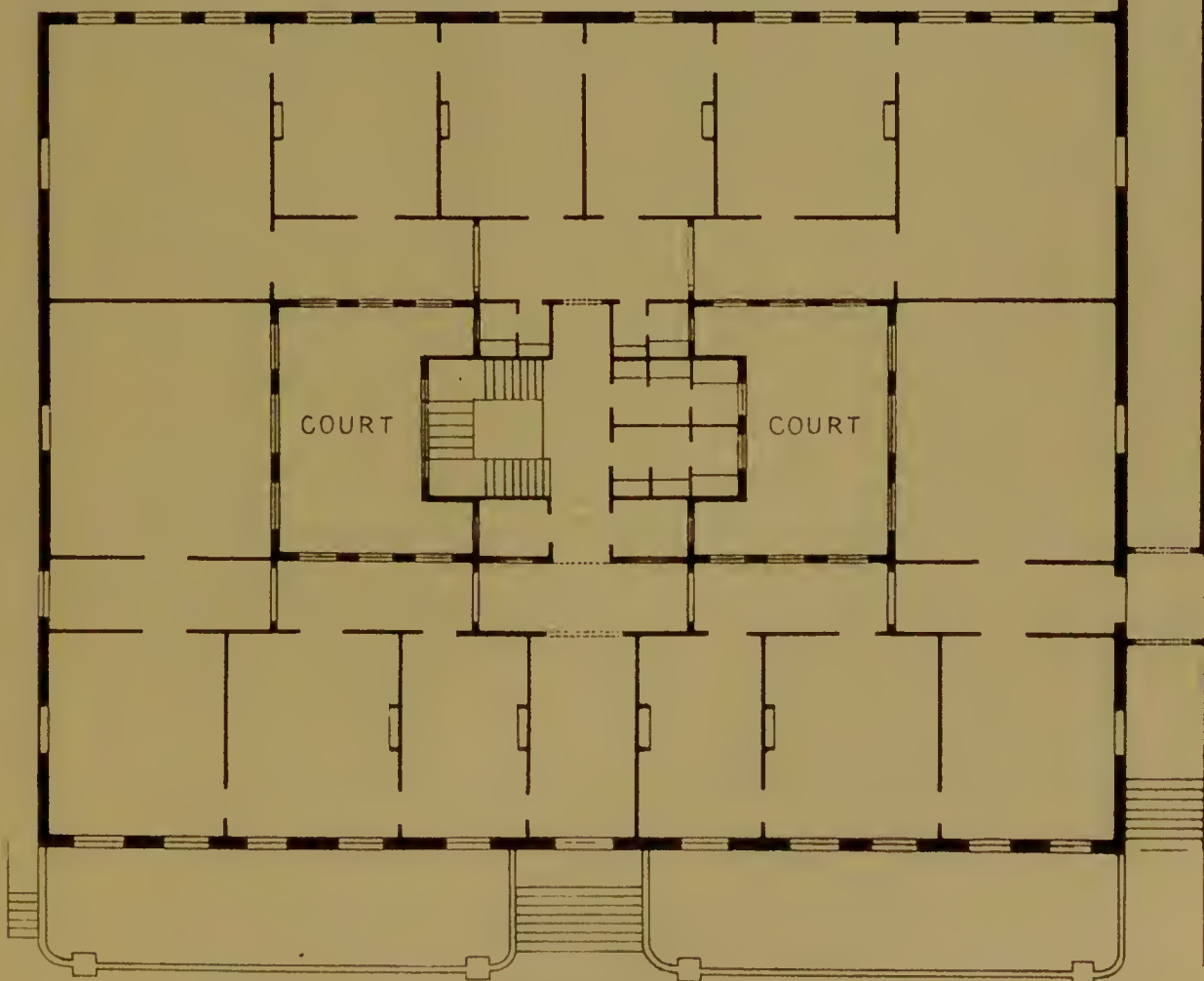
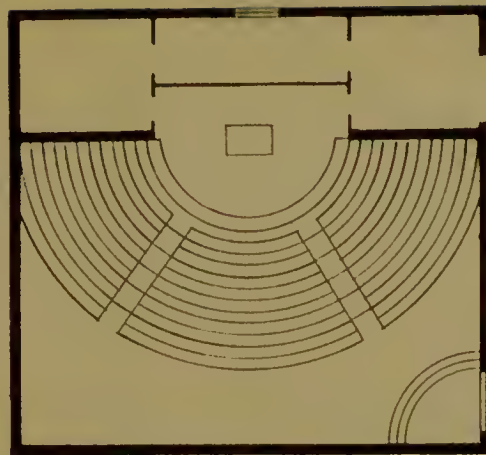
The key plan and ground plan, with an elevation, were issued with a circular largely addressed to the societies and individuals likely to support the scheme. The key plan marked the site of the building and its position relatively to Tothill and Victoria Streets, Westminster Hospital, Sessions House, Crimean Memorial, and Abbey. The ground plan alone, as having a permanent interest, is shown in the annexed engraving.

The plan is that of the ground floor, showing 14 spacious rooms, of easy access from the central entrance, ranged round a staircase communicating with basement and floors above. The rooms on the same floor open into wide, well-lighted, and well-aired passages, and communicate with each other so as to admit of being grouped together in many combinations of number and position. This is an obvious advantage, as it enables each society to rent the number of rooms it requires. The rooms may be let single, or in groups of two, three, or more ; and each floor might, if desirable, be devoted to some special purpose. Behind the main building, and on the same level, is a theatre for 250 persons, of easy approach by a corridor from the main building, as well as from the street. The basement of the theatre, on the same level as the basement of the main building, has all the arrangements required for the use of the societies that have dinner clubs attached to them.

The total number of apartments, including those on the basement, which are airy and well-lighted, and quite suitable for offices, is 58. There are rooms on each floor large enough to accommodate with ease at least 80 persons and convenient for all the ordinary meetings of societies.



170' 0"



120' 0"





# PROSPECTUS OF THE SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES' HOUSE COMPANY, LIMITED.

TO PROVIDE IMPROVED HOUSE ACCOMMODATION ON REASONABLE TERMS.  
FOR CERTAIN OF THE LEARNED SOCIETIES IN LONDON.

CAPITAL, £40,000, IN 4,000 SHARES OF £10 EACH.

*The calls to be 10s. per Share on application, and £2 on allotment. Future calls at intervals of not less than three months, and not to exceed £1 10s. per call.*

The whole or part of the Shares may be paid in full, and will carry dividend accordingly. Borrowing powers to the extent of one half of the Share Capital. Power to increase the Share Capital to £50,000.

*Careful calculations of income fully justify the expectation of a dividend of 5 per cent. per annum on the Share Capital called up.*

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LORD WOLVERTON.

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W. A. GUY, M.D., F.R.S.

ARCH. HAMILTON.

ROBT. RAWLINSON, C.B.

*(With power to increase their number chiefly from persons connected with Societies becoming Tenants of the Building.)*

## Bankers.

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67, Lombard Street, E.C.

## Solicitors.

MESSRS. BAXTER, ROSE & NORTON,  
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## Architect.

THOMAS BELLAMY, 8, Charlotte Street,  
Bedford Square, W.C.

## Auditors.

JNO. OLDFIELD CHADWICK.  
WM. THOS. NEWMARCH.

## Hon. Secretary.

FRED. JNO. MOUAT, M.D., F.R.C.S.

## Temporary Offices.

12, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE, S.W.

## PROSPECTUS.

It is generally known that for some time past efforts have been making to provide a Central Building for certain of the Learned Societies in London not included in the provision made by Government in Burlington House. At first it was thought that the Government might be induced



to assist the project by granting, on reasonable terms, a freehold or leasehold site near Whitehall; and in May, 1871, a memorial was presented to Mr. Lowe by a deputation. This Memorial is given on the third page, together with Mr. Baxter's reply to Sir John Lubbock, from which it appears that, if buildings are to be provided, it must be by the exertions of the Learned Societies themselves.

It is proposed, therefore, to found a Limited Company of the usual form, with a capital composed of 4,000 Shares of £10 each, representing £40,000. It is not expected that the whole of the Share Capital will be required to be called up, but Shareholders may pay up their Shares in full and become entitled to dividend accordingly. Borrowing powers, &c., as stated above. Careful calculations of income justify the expectation of a dividend of 5 per cent. per annum on the Share Capital.

The Societies which have so far taken part in the discussions and negotiations are—

Statistical Society,	Iron and Steel Institute,	Anthropological Institute,
Social Science Association,	Meteorological Society,	Photographic Society,
Institute of Actuaries,	Juridical Society,	Royal Colonial Institute.

Several other Societies are known to be favourable to the scheme.

After extensive and careful conference with parties connected with Learned Societies, the Directors have satisfied themselves that the most eligible of all sites available for the Building, is a plot of *freehold* ground in Tothill Street, Westminster, close to the Broad Sanctuary, and affording very unusual facilities of access by railway, tramway, omnibus, and boat from all parts of London, whether north or south of the Thames; and also closely contiguous to the Houses of Parliament, Public Offices, Parks, and important business and residential quarters. It is seldom that *freehold* ground can be obtained in the best parts of London, and hence the quality of the tenure is in this instance a circumstance of special advantage and importance. The plot is 120 feet frontage by 170 feet deep, or say two-fifths of an acre, and affords an ample area for the best arrangement of the Building and the Theatre connected with it.

The Directors have obtained a formal offer of the ground till 1st May next, at a sum which they are satisfied is fair and reasonable, and which is quite consistent with their calculations of total outlay.

In order to act on this offer, it is indispensable that the 4,000 Shares be subscribed for on or before the 15th April. If this be done there is every probability of the Building being completed by the autumn of next year, 1874.

*Outline Plans and Sketches of the Building and Theatre as approved are sent herewith.*

The discussions and inquiries which have taken place have shown that essential service would be rendered to Science by concentrating into one building the many Societies now scattered over London, and incurring, each for itself, heavy fixed charges of rent, rates and taxes, fire and light, salaries to officers, portage, &c.—charges which would be much reduced by concentration. The advantages that would accrue to the Fellows of the several Societies from having a common centre of meeting, business, and discussion, are obvious. The building plan includes a spacious Theatre, and ample accommodation for the Dinner Clubs attached to several of the Societies.

Legal powers will be taken in the Memorandum and Articles under which the Company may accept donations, bequests, and devices, to be applied as a Redemption Fund for the liquidation on equitable terms of the capital and liabilities of the Company, so that at some future time the building may be freely available for the benefit of Scientific Societies and Science. Any surplus of divisible profits remaining, after paying a dividend of 5 per cent. per annum on the Share Capital, will also be carried to the Redemption Fund.

If the Company does not go forward, the deposits will be returned to the Subscribers, less the small sum which may have been paid for expenses, all the Directors acting gratuitously.

## M E M O R I A L.

To the RIGHT HONOURABLE ROBERT LOWE, M.P., *Chancellor of the Exchequer.*

"STATISTICAL SOCIETY, 12 ST. JAMES'S SQUARE,

*London, S.W., May, 1871.*

"The undersigned Members of a Committee appointed by certain Scientific and Learned Societies  
 "for the purpose of procuring the erection of a Central Building to afford a convenient place  
 "of meeting, with suitable offices and economic arrangements, for the Societies which they  
 "severally represent, and for such others as may hereafter seek the like accommodation, to  
 "the number of twelve or more—

"Respectfully request the favour of an interview, that they may submit certain facts for the consideration  
 "of Her Majesty's Government, and a proposal based upon such facts :—which proposal they venture to  
 "think will be found consistent with the interests of the public as well as with those of science and  
 "learning.

"The Scientific and Learned Societies represented by the Undersigned, are prepared to raise  
 "among their members a sum of, say £20,000, and to expend it in the erection of a building of appropriate  
 "ornamental character, which they would prefer to place on some spot bordering on the Thames  
 "Embankment, and in the neighbourhood of Whitehall.

"The Societies, however, are met at the outset by a very serious obstacle, in the difficulty of  
 "obtaining a suitable site, and it is to overcome this obstacle that the Undersigned make their respectful  
 "application for the assistance of Her Majesty's Government, and venture to submit that if some portion  
 "of the space between the Embankment and Whitehall, having for its northern boundary Whitehall  
 "Place, could be offered to them on such moderate terms and reasonable conditions as Her Majesty's  
 "Government may see fit to require, the interests of Science and Learning would be materially promoted,  
 "and the site itself be so occupied as to secure the approbation of the public and harmonise with the  
 "design of the Embankment.

"The Undersigned venture to hope that you will accord an early and favourable reply to this  
 "application.

(Signed)

"W. A. GUY, *Statistical Society.*

"BEDFORD PIM, R.N., *Anthropological Institute.*

"G. W. HASTINGS, *Social Science Association.*

"A. BROGDEN, M.P., *Iron and Steel Institute.*

"S. BROWN, *Institute of Actuaries.*

"J. GLAISHER, *Photographic Society.*

"A. STRANGE, LT.-COL., *Meteorological Society.* "HENRY BLAINE, *Royal Colonial Institute.*

"A. C. HUMPHREYS, *Juridical Society.*

"WILLIAM NEWMARCH, F.R.S., *President of the Committee.*

"FREDERICK PURDY, *Honorary Secretary.*"

The interview thus sought was at once granted, and Mr. Lowe expressed his readiness to forward the objects of the Committee, but referred them to Mr. Gore, the Chief Commissioner of Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues, to whose department the disposal of Crown or public lands is entrusted.

With reference to the preceding, the following extract is important :—

"A deputation, he believed, had waited upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but he could hold  
 "out no hope that the Government would entertain their request."—Mr. Baxter's speech, in answer to  
 Sir John Lubbock, August 5, 1872.